

United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local No. 876

VICTORIA "VICKY" COLLINS
President

ROGER ROBINSON
Secretary-Treasurer

RICK BLOCKER
Recorder

876 Horace Brown Drive • Madison Heights, Michigan 48071
Phone (248) 585-9671 • Fax (248) 585-0509
1-800-321-6406



Statement of Chris Michalakis Legislative Director of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876

Before the House Commerce Committee on SB 175, September 13, 2005

Thank you Mr. Chair. The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876 does not support Senate Bill 175. I would like to ask the committee two questions. First, does it make sense to subsidize the retail sector in general, and second does it make sense to subsidize Wal-Mart in particular?

The retail sector follows markets, not subsidies. It makes no sense to subsidize an industry that will already build where there is a market. We understand that Wal-Mart plans to build a new distribution center in Mt. Pleasant and would be a clear beneficiary of this bill. Wal-Mart has a history of violating child labor laws, making workers work off the clock, was involved in the largest class-action lawsuit in history regarding sexual discrimination, and has a high percentage of workers on Medicare.

This bill will take Michigan taxpayer money, and send it to Arkansas, just to help put Michigan businesses out of business. We have seen Wal-Mart do this all over the country, as 90% of their distribution centers receive some sort of government subsidy. When they do not get the money they want, they build their distribution center anyway. Thank you again Mr. Chair.